

WESTFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
12/17/2003

Present : Ken Tebbetts, Phil Gilbert, Roberta McGuire, Stacey Perron, Jane Hinckley

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Secretary's Report- The minutes from 11/19/2003 were reviewed with the following corrections: the year should be 2003, and the number of the cider mill on Chamberlain Road is 68. Roberta McGuire moved to accept the minutes with the addition of the corrections, and Jane Hinckley seconded.

The minutes from the 10/4/2003 meeting were reviewed. Roberta moved to accept, with Jane seconding.

Treasurer's report- This was tabled, as Sally Benedict was not present.

National Register- Ken Tebbetts will follow up on the cemetery applications, and will give us an update at the next meeting.

We would like to work on historically significant houses that lie outside of the historic districts, some municipal buildings, and other significant landmarks. We can use the information from the preservation plan to prioritize items . Once we have the update from Sanford Johnson, we will invite the Cemetery Commission to a meeting for review.

Preservation Plan- This project has to be our priority. Ken would like to present a draft at various board meetings by February, (Master Plan, Planning Board, Town Manager, ZBA, Town Clerk, BOS, and Cons. Com) with a public hearing in March or April. We should have the first draft for review at our January meeting.

Demolition Delay- Jane reviewed an application for demolition of a garage on 4 Old Wood, which was built around 1964, and therefore not applicable.

Update- Ken asked the Board if we would like to make any changes to the Demolition Delay Bylaw at a future Town Meeting. Phil Gilbert suggested making the date of construction a rolling date of 50 years. Roberta suggested reviewing how the law is written. Sally (who recently joined the meeting) suggested

tightening the restrictions to prevent people from remodeling almost to the point of demolition. Roberts also suggested including an expiration date for demolition permits. The group felt that and fines should be firm, and collected. We will undertake this project in the next calendar year.

Open Forum- Jane received a call from Chip Collins, who gave some information to Ken, who will review and get back to him.

Jane got her photos back from 32 Hildreth St. She also got her photos back from the new National Register signs for Brookside, and Parker Village, and the work on the cannon on the Town Common.

Ellen Harde has suggested adding Chamberlain, Frances Hill, and Gould Rd. To our inventory of scenic roads. We will add this to our goals of 2004.

Jane reports that the road to the Lavalley house (185 Groton Rd.) has been blocked off.

The latest version of the preservation plan was distributed to the board. Great job on the web site! Our town wide survey results are now posted on the web site.

How do we want to establish criteria for evaluating importance? We will add a section about protection to the plan- what we have in place, what we would like for the future. This would include an archaeological survey, and updates to the demolition delay bylaw.

Some pieces still need to be completed - such as the executive summary and the history of planning in the community.

The National Register section needs to be updated and correlated with the street surveys done in 1975 with the revisions done in 1985.

We want to include maps from 1855, and the 1885 lithograph, and current historic district maps.

The Westford knight has been covered for the winter. Jane distributed an article on the Westford Carving.

Our next meeting will be January 21st. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Stacey M. Perron-Secretary

